



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for September 2003 was 5.3 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was two-tenths of a percentage point below the August 2003 rate of 5.5 percent and two-tenths of a percentage point above the September 2002 rate of 5.1 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons increased by 1,200, or 0.5 percent, from August 2003, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 400 individuals, or 3.0 percent. The increasing number of persons employed and the decreasing number of persons unemployed created an overall increase of 800 individuals, or 0.3 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force*, from August 2003. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons decreased by 6,500, or 2.7 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 300 individuals or 2.3 percent, creating a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 6,200 individuals, or 2.5 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from September 2002. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for September 2003 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	176,412	8,088	4.6	168,324
Adams	1,876	250	13.3	1,626
Boise	2,682	194	7.2	2,488
Canyon	69,678	5,054	7.3	64,625
Elmore	9,786	675	6.9	9,112
Gem	6,202	467	7.5	5,735
Owyhee	4,234	103	2.4	4,131
Payette	9,509	1,100	11.6	8,409
Valley	4,000	322	8.1	3,678
Washington	4,137	487	11.8	3,651
Statewide	686,282	37,389	5.4	648,893

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties

	Sept 2003*	Aug 2003	Sept 2002	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	244,800	244,000	251,000	0.3	-2.5
Unemployment	13,100	13,500	12,800	-3.0	2.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.3	5.5	5.1		
Total Employment	231,700	230,500	238,200	0.5	-2.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	242,500	245,200	249,000	-1.1	-2.6
Unemployment	11,800	12,500	11,600	-5.6	1.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	5.1	4.7		
Total Employment	230,700	232,700	237,400	-0.9	-2.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	230,300	228,500	230,700	0.8	-0.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	46,400	46,200	48,100	0.4	-3.5
Natural Resources & Construction	16,000	16,100	16,400	-0.6	-2.4
Manufacturing	30,400	30,100	31,700	1.0	-4.1
Durable Goods	23,300	23,100	24,700	0.9	-5.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,900	2,000	1,900	-5.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,300	1,400	-7.7	-14.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,400	14,400	16,100	0.0	-10.6
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Other Durable Goods	2,700	2,300	2,100	17.4	28.6
Nondurable Goods	7,100	7,000	7,000	1.4	1.4
Food Manufacturing	5,200	5,200	5,200	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1,200	1,100	1,000	9.1	20.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	183,900	182,300	182,600	0.9	0.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	45,300	44,900	44,900	0.9	0.9
Trade	38,100	37,900	37,900	0.5	0.5
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,600	10,400	0.9	2.9
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,600	6,600	6,400	0.0	3.1
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	3,100	0.0	-9.7
Retail Trade	27,400	27,300	27,500	0.4	-0.4
Food & Beverage Stores	4,200	4,100	4,400	2.4	-4.5
General Merchandise Stores	5,900	5,900	5,900	0.0	0.0
All Other Retail Trade	17,300	17,300	17,200	0.0	0.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,200	7,000	7,000	2.9	2.9
Utilities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	6,500	6,300	6,300	3.2	3.2
Information	3,700	3,700	3,600	0.0	2.8
Telecommunications	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
Financial Activities	12,300	12,300	12,100	0.0	1.7
Finance & Insurance	9,300	9,300	9,000	0.0	3.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,000	3,000	3,100	0.0	-3.2
Professional & Business Services	33,500	33,400	32,100	0.3	4.4
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	9,400	9,400	10,200	0.0	-7.8
Management of Companies & Ent.	6,900	7,000	6,700	-1.4	3.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	17,200	17,000	15,200	1.2	13.2
Educational & Health Services	27,600	27,700	26,900	-0.4	2.6
Educational Services	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	25,700	25,800	25,000	-0.4	2.8
Hospitals	9,000	9,200	8,900	-2.2	1.1
Leisure & Hospitality	19,900	20,100	20,500	-1.0	-2.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,900	3,000	2,700	-3.3	7.4
Accommodation & Food Services	17,000	17,100	17,800	-0.6	-4.5
Accommodation	2,000	2,000	2,100	0.0	-4.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	15,000	15,100	15,700	-0.7	-4.5
Other Services	6,700	6,700	6,700	0.0	0.0
Total Government	34,900	33,500	35,800	4.2	-2.5
Federal Government	5,500	5,600	5,400	-1.8	1.9
State & Local Government	29,400	27,900	30,400	5.4	-3.3
State Government	13,400	12,600	13,900	6.3	-3.6
State Government Education	3,900	3,200	4,300	21.9	-9.3
State Government Administration	9,500	9,400	9,600	1.1	-1.0
Local Government	16,000	15,300	16,500	4.6	-3.0
Local Government Education	9,000	8,300	9,500	8.4	-5.3
Local Government Administration	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0	0.0

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,800, or 0.8 percent, from August 2003 to September 2003, while year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* lost 400 jobs, or 0.2 percent, in the Boise City MSA. Month-over-month *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 200 jobs; job gains were noted in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (400 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100 jobs), while job decreases were noted in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (-100 jobs), *Wood Product Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), and *Machinery Manufacturing* (-100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 1,700 jobs, occurring in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (-400 jobs), *Machinery Manufacturing* (-200 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (-1,700 jobs), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), and *Printing and Related Supports Activities* (-100 jobs). The only industries to experience job gains were *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (600 jobs) and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (200).

In *Service-Providing Industries*, jobs gained outweighed jobs lost in the Boise City MSA by 1,600 from August 2003 to September 2003. Gains were experienced in *Food and Beverage Stores* (100 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (200 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (200 jobs), *State Government Education* (700 jobs), *State Government Administration* (100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (700 jobs). Job losses occurred in *Management of Companies & Enterprises* (-100 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (-100 jobs) including *Hospitals* (-200 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (-100 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-100 jobs), and *Federal Government* (-100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Service-Providing Industries* gained 1,300 jobs. Gains were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (200 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (100 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (200 jobs), *Information Services* (100 jobs) including *Telecommunications Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (300 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprises* (200 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (2,000 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (700 jobs) including *Hospitals* (100 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (200 jobs), and *Federal Government* (100 jobs). Job losses were noted in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-300 jobs), *Food and Beverage Stores* (-200 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (-100 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-800 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-100 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-700 jobs), *State Government Education* (-400 jobs), *State Government Administration* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-500 jobs). The

slow growth of jobs over the year is consistent with the downturn and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Washington Group International (WGI) was awarded a \$110 million contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for reconstruction in Iraq. The contract allows WGI to help repair Iraq's electrical infrastructure. WGI will install two 80-megawatt electrical generators, rehabilitate three existing generators, and reconstruct a series of 400-kilovolt electrical transmission lines.
- ProClarity recently announced that it purchased the rights of the distribution and sales of its products in the United Kingdom (UK) from Intelligent-Apps Holdings Limited. ProClarity currently has more than 120 corporate customers in the UK, including Harrod's, Siemens Standard Drives, Scottish & Newcastle Retail, and Reuters. Purchasing the distribution and sales rights allows ProClarity to have direct relationships with customers and shows that the company anticipates growth in that area.
- Albertsons Inc. laid off an undisclosed number of employees at its Boise headquarters in early October. The company cited an "ultra-competitive" environment in addition to the need to lower costs, as reason for the layoffs.
- Wells Fargo & Co. announced in October that it would sell the former First Security Building on the south side of Idaho Street between 9th and 10th Streets in downtown Boise to Tomlinson & Associates, Inc. Wells Fargo plans to consolidate all of its downtown banking and administrative operations at the Wells Fargo Center at the corner of Ninth and Main Streets. Tomlinson & Associates, Inc. plans to renovate the building for retail and office space.
- The construction of an 11-story building containing a Hampton Inn & Suites Hotel has been announced as part of the ongoing redevelopment of the 8th Street Marketplace in downtown Boise. According to the plans, a 168-room Hampton Inn will occupy the fifth through eleventh floors of a building located at the corner of Capitol Boulevard and Myrtle Street. Other plans for the site include construction of a parking garage, retail establishments, a 10-screen theater, and office space. Completion of the hotel and parking garage construction is expected in late 2004.

- Amalgamated Sugar Company announced plans in early October to move its headquarters from Ogden, Utah, to Boise over the next few years. Company officials plan to bring the corporate offices closer to Amalgamated owners, production plants, and suppliers. The Boise headquarters will minimize travel between factories. The company expects that about 20 people will be employed at the Boise site in a year and the remaining staff will come the next year. Amalgamated Corporate offices currently employ about 50 people.
- TenXsys, a Boise engineering firm, recently won a \$600,000 two-year NASA contract to develop software that would allow complex data, such as that received from a space shuttle or the international space station, to be read on laptops and PDAs.
- KeyLabs, a Utah technology firm, recently opened a facility in Boise. The Boise facility will conduct product testing, certification assurance programs, and stress testing of e-commerce sites and high-traffic websites. The office is located on Explorer Drive in West Boise.
- A new Hampton Inn & Suites opened near the Idaho Center in Nampa in mid-September. The four-story facility has 101 rooms and 4,000-square feet of conference space. The hotel held a grand opening celebration in mid-October.
- Nampa School District voters approved a \$39 million school bond in mid-October. The bond will fund a new high school and two new elementary schools in Nampa. Construction of the new high school and elementary schools will start in April 2004 and May 2004, respectively. The new schools are expected to open in fall 2005.
- Vallivue School District trustees unanimously approved two new charter schools for the district in mid-October. Thomas Jefferson Charter School will serve students in grades kindergarten through seventh with class sizes between 25 and 33 students. It will open in fall 2004 with about 250 students. Highmark Charter School will serve students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade with class sizes between 25 and 30 students. It will open in fall 2004 with about 135 students.
- Neon Plaza, located on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard near Lowe's in Nampa, has announced tenants for the facility including Primo's Pizza Buffet, Quizno's, Coldstone Creamery, and Fantastik Sams. Completion of the building is expected in mid-December. Neon Plaza is being built on the former Neon Drive-In site.
- Recent business openings in the Boise City MSA include: Mai Thai Restaurant and Boogie Woogie's on Idaho Street in downtown Boise, Bead Dreams on Emerald in Boise, Chinese Acupuncture and Natural Therapy Center on Cole Road in Boise, a Cold Clean office on Contractors Street in Boise, an Arctic Circle eatery on Five Mile in West Boise, Booster Juice in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Meridian, Dancing Dog Coffee House on Franklin Road in Meridian, Bella Fina, an upscale furnishings store, in Meridian, Krispy Kreme's first Idaho donut shop on the corner of Eagle and Fairview in Meridian, Big 5 Sporting Goods in Karcher Mall in Nampa in early November, and Golden Dragon Chinese Buffet on 21st Avenue in Caldwell. In other business: Home Depot announced it would start building in Nampa, bringing more than \$6 million into the local economy with the construction of the new store; the Melting Pot will open at the corner of Idaho and 6th Street in downtown Boise in spring 2004; Chapala closed its downtown Boise eatery; The Mona Lisa plans to open a fondue restaurant in downtown Boise near the end of 2003; Advanced Business Communications relocated to Orchard Street in Boise; Paper Express moved to a new facility in the Westgate Shopping Center in Boise; PetSmart announced plans to open a store in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Meridian; Bodily RV started construction on a new RV Super Center at the corner of Linder and Overland in Meridian; Tony Roma announced plans to open a restaurant in Meridian within the next year; The Winery at Eagle Knoll held its grand opening in October at its location on Highway 16 near Eagle; CableOne started construction on a new building in Nampa; Bodybuilding.com announced plans to open a new store in the ShopKo Plaza on Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa; Book Nook Plus reopened after its remodel and expansion in Nampa; Victor's reopened in the Edmark Plaza in Caldwell; and the Simplot family donated \$1 million toward Caldwell's planned YMCA.

Adams County

- A new real estate agency, Country Properties, recently opened in Council. The business is located at 601 Dartmouth, across from Jerry's Auto Parts. The business currently has listings ranging from Midvale to Fruitvale and is expecting to eventually cover everything between Midvale and New Meadows. The company website, www.idahocountryproperties.net, is now available. The

business is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- A to Z Bargains recently opened in the Carter Building in Council. The retail store offers a wide selection of import and salvage merchandise as well as discounts groceries. The business is owned by Kevin McDaid and Deana Bair and is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Elmore County

- Idaho Power announced recently that a 160-megawatt gas turbine power plant would be built in Mountain Home's industrial park located north of The Pilot truck stop. Idaho Power entered into a development contract with Mountain View Power, Inc. of Boise to construct the facility. The \$61 million facility will employ about 75 people during the construction of the facility; three to four people will be permanently employed to run the plant. Once construction starts, the plant will be completed in about eight months.
- Elmore Medical Center has begun reviewing and developing plans for the relocation of its air ambulance-landing site. The \$45,000 to \$50,000 project would include a 45-square-foot concrete pad with special lighting and fencing, as well as a walkway to the helipad. The project is scheduled for completion in 2003.

Gem County

- Walter Knox Memorial Hospital recently started an expansion project. Some of the construction will be on the main entrance, so the temporary entrance is located at the east side emergency doors. Once the remodeling/expansion project is completed, the lab and radiology departments will be larger, the post-surgery and recovery rooms will be remodeled, the dietary area will be smaller, and a business office and medical records area will be added. The remodeling/expansion project is scheduled for completion by July 2004.

Payette County

- Busy Bee Espresso recently opened in Fruitland. The business is located at 1229 Southwest 16th Street. It is open 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Busy Bee Espresso is owned and operated by Curtis and Marjorie Cockerum.
- Snake River Veterinary in Fruitland held its official ribbon cutting ceremony in late October 24. The business recently moved from Payette to its

current location at 401 Whitley Drive in Fruitland. Doctors Brent Varriale and Wayne Ashton own and operate the veterinary clinic.

- Old West Dollar Store and More recently opened in Payette. The store is located at 1244 16th Street and is owned by George and Mica Wilson. The store stocks the typical dollar store inventory including balloons, cards, tools, toys, health products, beauty products, medicines, and baby products, as well as seasonal selections.

Valley County

- The McCall Center for Dance recently opened at 1016 North Third Street in downtown McCall. The McCall School of Ballet joined with Studio Bee to offer ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and tap lessons at the facility.
- A-1 Heating & Air Conditioning recently opened an office in McCall. The office is located on Commerce Street near Lumberman's lumberyard and the McCall airport. The office serves the entire McCall area including New Meadows, Riggins, and Cascade.

Washington County

- Weiser voters recently passed a bond to finance a new multi-purpose facility for Weiser High School. The \$2.8 million bond will finance construction of the multi-purpose facility that will include a classroom/instructional area, gym space for physical education classes and extracurricular activities, a wrestling room, a fitness/conditioning room, storage areas, adequate shower and toilet accommodations, and an indoor walking track that will be available to patrons outside of school hours.
- Dr. Jason Carter recently opened a new dental office located at 39 West Idaho Street in Weiser. Dr. Carter has three employees.

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